



Technical Assistance Partner Profile

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Mission Statement	Ascend Education's mission is to help students stay in school and graduate. Ascend Education recognizes that one of the leading indicators of whether students will remain in school is passing Algebra. Ascend Math's role in helping students graduate is preparing students for success in Algebra and beyond.

APPROACH

Ascend Math® has demonstrated results that enable students to achieve up to two or more grade levels of growth in one school year. This research-based program is an online individualized instructional resource which identifies skill gaps, prescribes targeted instruction, and motivates students to succeed. Schools may use Ascend Math as a Core Math Curriculum, as a Supplemental Math Curriculum, or as an Intervention to target the needs of special populations including Tier II and Tier III Interventions, Special Education, High Ability and Acceleration, and Credit Recovery.

Ascend Math features award winning online instruction delivered by master educators. All lessons include multiple points of interactivity that support step-wise learning and encourage students to think and write about math consistent with today's rigorous state standards. Students will encounter learning prompts in each and every objective and interact with the instructor throughout the video lesson. Following each online lesson students will engage in a hands-on exploration of the objective and ample practice before passing a post-assessment.

THE SIX CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF A STRONG MATH INTERVENTION PROGRAM

TIERED INTERVENTION

The key to providing tiered intervention is the increasing intensity of assessment and instruction from one tier to the next. It is also critical to monitor and document progress while adapting individual learning plans as needed.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING

An effective universal screening process should quickly and accurately determine which students to target for intervention and identify specific gaps between student performance and expected instructional outcomes. Universal Screening also provides an opportunity to assess, identify, and nurture high ability students who are advanced in mathematics.

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

Students in classrooms may be functioning at a variety of instructional levels within and across major content areas and functional grade levels. Therefore, it is important to provide individualized instruction targeted to the student's actual level of performance rather than just his/her grade level. Within each level students' strengths and weaknesses vary across each domain, so it is equally important to prescribe instruction at the standard and objective level rather than broadly at the domain level.

PROGRESS MONITORING

An effective progress monitoring process frequently gathers student achievement data and analyzes the data in a timely, repeatable manner. This process contributes to sound instructional/intervention decision making based on reliable data and leads directly to the next critical component.

DATA-BASED DECISION MAKING

Data gathering, analysis, and decision making occur at all levels of RTI implementation and instructional planning. To be effective and consistent, it is important that decisions about students are supported with clear and comprehensive data.

INTERVENTION FIDELITY/INTEGRITY

It is important that an RTI program is implemented in the way it was designed at all tiers of intervention. Failure to implement with fidelity/integrity may unintentionally hinder the progress of a student and falsely implicate the student's learning ability.

Ascend Math's implementation team works with each school to customize an implementation and professional development plan based on the school's needs assessment and level recommendation screener data. We have experience collaborating with other third-party providers to support collaborative district and school improvement efforts. Of note is our collaboration with the Indiana Middle Level Association and the Schools to Watch Transformation Model, which serves as a Technical Assistance Provider, where Ascend Math is being implemented to support the Academic Excellence and Social Equity Domains. We have also collaborated with consultants from MGT on Ascend Math implementation.

Our ideal Partner District/School is one who is fully committed at every stage and ensures accountability for implementing the customized plan. This includes attending meetings, ensuring all stakeholders engage in training, and monitoring the use of the program by regularly reviewing and publicly sharing usage and growth data. Our ideal partner plans for sustainability by providing on-going PD and continued use of Ascend Math with fidelity based on the customized plan.

TRACK RECORD OF DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT

Ascend Math is proven effective at improving math gains according to guidelines set forth for rigorous evaluations. The results of a Promising Evidence well-designed and well-implemented correlation study with statistical controls for selection bias from Hamilton Heights Middle School in Indiana are described below.

Hamilton Heights Middle School

Hamilton Heights utilized Ascend Math school-wide for the 2017-2018 school year in an effort to increase ISTEP+ proficiency scores for all students. Prior to utilizing Ascend Math, Hamilton Heights ISTEP+ results were closely related to the State of Indiana ISTEP+ results. After utilizing Ascend Math, Hamilton Heights significantly outperformed State of Indiana averages.

Hamilton Heights' 2017 ISTEP+ results were compared to the State of Indiana 2017 results. The 2017 Hamilton Heights' 6th grade passing rate was 59.8% compared to the state passing rate of 59.6%. When comparing the 2018 ISTEP+ results from Hamilton Heights Middle School following the use of Ascend Math to the State of Indiana 2018 results, significant gains were achieved. The 2018 Hamilton Heights 6th grade students' passing rate of 72% exceeded the State passing average of 57.9%. Students at Hamilton Heights improved by 12 points compared to a 1.7 point decline in the state passing rate. Students at Hamilton Heights outperformed the state average by 14 points compared to a 0.2 point difference in performance prior to using Ascend Math. Similar results occurred at the 8th grade where Hamilton Heights 8th grade 2018 passing rate was 62% compared to the state passing average of 55.7%. By comparison, the 2017 Hamilton Heights 8th grade passing rate was 58% compared to the state passing rate of 55.1%. Students utilizing Ascend Math at Hamilton Heights increased their pass rate by 4 points compared to the state average increase of 1.2 points. Further, Hamilton Heights' students outperformed the state average by 6.3 points in 2018.